Page 1 of 15 Print Message(s) THE NEXT 3 PAGES ARE NON RESPONSIVE AND ARE NOT INCLUDED. **ENVELOPE** (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) **HEADER** PR 171805Z AUG 00 FM SSO DIA (b)(3):10 USC 424,(b)(3):50 USC 3024(i) CONTROLS (b)(3):10 USC 424 0000 SECTION 1 OF 7 ))) /\*\*\*\*\*\* THIS IS A COMBINED MESSAGE \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*/ BODY SUBJ: DIA COMMONWEALTH ASSESSMENT 061-00/17 AUG 00 ))) (U) THE INFORMATION CONTAINED IN THIS REPORT HAS BEEN AUTHORIZED BY (b)(3):10 USC 424 DIA Non Responsive (U) BURUNDI: DUBIOUS PLAN FOR REGROUPMENT CAMP CONVERSION Non Responsive

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- (U) BURUNDI: DUBIOUS PLAN FOR REGROUPMENT CAMP CONVERSION AS OF 2100Z 06 AUG 2000
- 1. (C) PEACE NEGOTIATOR NELSON MANDELA HAS DEMANDED THE CLOSURE OF REGROUPMENT CAMPS. BUJUMBURA'S PROPOSAL TO CONVERT SOME CAMPS INTO PERMANENT VILLAGES HAS LITTLE INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT. BURUNDI'S INTRANSIGENCE COULD IMPEDE THE ARUSHA PEACE TALKS AND FURTHER JEOPARDIZE THE STABILITY OF THE GREAT LAKES REGION.
- 2. (C) IN RESPONSE TO MANDELA'S DEMAND THAT BURUNDI CLOSE THE REGROUPMENT CAMPS AS A CONDITION OF A PEACE ACCORD AT ARUSHA, TANZANIA, BURUNDI PLEDGED TO DISMANTLE THE CAMPS BY 31 JULY. THIS DEADLINE PASSED, AND THE GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCED A PLAN TO CONVERT SOME

OF THE CAMPS IN BUJUMBURA RURALE PROVINCE - STARTING WITH KABEZI, MUBIMBI, AND RUZIBA - INTO PERMANENT VILLAGES. THE REGIME PRESENTS ITS PLAN AS AN ALTERNATIVE TO FORCED REGROUPMENT; HOWEVER, BURUNDI'S

HUTU MAJORITY SEES IT AS A WAY FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN CONTROL

OVER THEM. HISTORICALLY, VILLAGIZATION IN BURUNDI HAS FAILED BECAUSE,

UNLIKE OTHER AFRICAN COUNTRIES, THERE IS NO TRADITION OF VILLAGE LIFE. PRESIDENT JEAN-BAPTISTE BAGAZA TRIED THIS APPROACH, WITHOUT SUCCESS, IN THE 1980S.

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